A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Prior to 1921 Lower Division clerks in the Chief Secretariat were with two exceptions on a graded scale of pay ranging from Rs. 25 to Rs. 60. The two excepted posts carried a pay of Rs. 70 and Rs. 80 respectively, but the prospects of attaining them were naturally limited. In 1921 these graded scales were replaced by a time scale of Rs. 40—40—5—65—3—80 and the maximum of this scale can be reached by *every* clerk (provided that his work is generally satisfactory). It will be seen, therefore, that the prospects of clerks have been appreciably better since 1921 than they were before.

Finance

Introduction of fixed travelling allowance.

* 263 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the system of fixed travelling allowance has been introduced to any extent in this province and, if so, in what departments and when;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to introduce the system of fixed travelling allowance in all departments of Government in this province; and

(*c*) if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) Yes. There are Government servants in most departments who receive fixed travelling allowance. A list will be found in Annexure III of the Madras Travelling Allowance Rules printed at pages 79—88 of Volume II of the Madras Manual of Special Pay and Allowances, a copy of which is in the Council Library.

(*b*) If what the hon. Member has in mind is the abolition of all ordinary travelling allowances and their replacement by fixed travelling allowances, the answer is in the negative.

(*c*) Because the system of fixed travelling allowances can only be introduced with economy to Government and without unfairness to the individual, in the limited number of cases in which a Government servant has a definite amount of touring to do in the restricted area. The system would not be suitable for officers whose journeys in the performance of their duty fluctuate both in number and distance.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know from the hon. the Finance Member whether the Government of this province have examined how the Government of India are basing their policy regarding fixed travelling allowance to officers? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" No, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—" May I know, Sir, whether they will examine it? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—" No, Sir."

30th October 1931]

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know, Sir, the number of officers who have been drawing fixed travelling allowance after this question was given notice of?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"I should like to have notice of the question."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know whether the question of fixed travelling allowances is being considered by the Retrenchment Committee?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Have they finished the consideration, Sir?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"They have made certain recommendations to Government on the subject."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"May I know whether these recommendations will be placed on the table of the House?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"In due course the House will know them."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Will they let the Council know before they take any decision on them?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"It rests with the Government."

Madras Record Office

Appointment of an I.C.S. Officer as Curator, Madras Record Office.

* 264 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that an I.C.S. Officer was appointed as Curator of the Madras Record Office in the year 1930 with the object of preparing a manual on revenue records;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that, subsequent to the appointment of the I.C.S. Officer as Curator, an additional staff of nine clerks was sanctioned to assist him in his special work;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that on the request of the Curator, the Government sanctioned a special pay of Rs. 10 per mensem to the senior clerk of the special staff;

(*d*) what is the annual expenditure on the Madras Record Office before the appointment of the I.C.S. Officer with the special staff and the annual expenditure on the same after the appointment of the I.C.S. Officer with the special staff;

(*e*) whether the Government propose to abolish the office of Curator as a measure of retrenchment; and

(*f*) what would be the saving effected as a result of abolishing the office of Curator?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The annual expenditure for the Madras Record Office prior to the appointment of the Special Officer and his staff is Rs. 60,696 and the expenditure as anticipated in the Budget Estimates for 1931–32, i.e., after the appointment of the Special Officer and his staff, is Rs. 1,08,600.